

Message Text

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CHEROKEE

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, US, LE

SUBJECT: MURDERS OF AMBASSADOR MELOY, MR. WARING AND MR.
MOGHRABI

FOLLOWING FROM SOURCE CONNECTED WITH FEDAYEEN:

QUOTE

1. ACCORDING TO THE FATAH DOMINATED PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION(PLO) SECURITY ORGANIZATION, THE FOLLOWING IS AVAILABLE INFORMATION ON THE ASSASSINATION OF AMBASSADOR MELOY, COUNSELOR WARING, AND DRIVER MOGHRABI AS OF 31 JULY:

A. THE SAME THREE INDIVIDUALS BOTH CARRIED OUT THE KIDNAPPING AND THE MURDERS. ALL THREE WERE FROM THE SOCIALIST LABOR PARTY (HIZB AL AMAL AL ISHTIRAKI), THE LEBANESE AFFILIATE OF GEORGE HABBASH'S WING OF THE POPULAR FRONT FOR THE LIBERATION OF PALESTINE (PFLP). THESE THREE INDIVIDUALS WERE ARRESTED BY PLO SECURITY FORCES SOON AFTER THE ASSASSINATION, BASED ON INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION DERIVING FROM THE SITE OF THE CAPTURE. THEY DID NOT RESIST ARREST. ALL THREE ARE LEBANESE CITIZENS.

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B. AT LEAST TWO OF THE MEN, UNDER INTERROGATION, STATED THAT THEY HAD RECEIVED ORDERS FROM THE PFLP LEADERSHIP DIRECTLY TO CARRY OUT THE OPERATION INCLUDING THE MURDERS. FURTHER, THEY STATED THAT THE OPERATION WAS PREPLANNED AND NOT A TARGET OF OPPORTUNITY. THEY DID NOT KNOW PFLP MOTIVATION FOR SUCH AN OPERATION AT THIS TIME.

C. WHEN CONFRONTED BY PLO SECURITY WITH THE CONFESSIONS THE PFLO LEADERSHIP DENIED THE ALLEGATIONS MADE BY THE THREE MEN THAT THEY HAD BEEN ORDERED TO CARRY OUT THE OPERATION. THE PFLP DEMANDED TO INTERROGATE THE MEN THEMSELVES. THE PLO, ACTING UNDER THE DIRECTION OF SALAH KHALAF (ABU IYAD) IN THE ABSENCE OF YASIR ARAFAT, AGREED TO ALLOW THE PFLP TO TAKE THE MEN FOR INTERROGATION. AFTER SEVERAL DAYS, THE PFLP REPORTED THAT THEY HAD "LIQUIDATED" TWO OF THE MEN BECAUSE OF THEIR UNAUTHORIZED ACTIONS. THEY WERE STILL HOLDING THE THIRD, AND WERE STILL DOING SO AS OF 31 JULY. PLO/FATAH OFFICIALS DID NOT SEE THE BODIES OF THE TWO MEN WHO WERE SUPPOSEDLY LIQUIDATED, AND CANNOT VERIFY THE TRUTH OF THE PFLP'S ACTIONS. PLO SECURITY OFFICERS SUSPECT THAT THE THIRD MAN, WHO IS IN PRISON, IS LESS KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT ULTIMATE PFLP INVOLVEMENT IN THE OPERATION, AND SO IS BEING KEPT ALIVE.

D. THE PFLP ACTION OCCURED AFTER THE PLO HAD PUBLICLY ANNOUNCED IT WOULD TURN OVER THE MURDERERS TO THE ARAB LEAGUE FORCES. THE PFLP ACTION CAUSED A CANCELLATION OF THIS INTENDED ACTION, A FACT WHICH IS MOST EMBARRASSING TO THE PLO LEADERSHIP.

E. UPON HIS RETURN TO BEIRUT, ARAFAT WAS EXTREMELY ANGRY AT ABU IYAD FOR HAVING GIVEN THE MEN TO THE PFLP IN THE FIRST PLACE. HOWEVER, UNDER THE PRESSURE OF THE SYRIAN ONSLAUGHT THEN IN PROCESS, THE PLO WAS EXTREMELY PREOCCUPIED AND COULD NOT RISK A CONFRONTATION WITH THEIR TACTICAL ALLIES AT THAT TIME. FOR THIS REASON, NO FATAH/PLO ACTION WAS TAKEN AGAINST THE PFLP AT THE TIME OR INDEED HAS BEEN TAKEN UNTIL NOW EXCEPT FOR DEMANDS THAT THE STILL LIVING PRISONER BE RETURNED.

F. ACCORDING TO THE INTERROGATION, THE THREE MEN WERE NOT KILLED STRAIGHTAWAY, BUT RATHER TAKEN TO THE RAMLET AL BAYDA

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AREA OF BEIRUT, NOT FAR FROM WHERE THEIR BODIES WERE FOUND. THEY WERE KILLED IN THAT AREA. THE EMBASSY VEHICLE WAS THEN ABANDONED IN THE SABRA AREA OF BEIRUT.

2. THE PLO IS SATISFIED THAT NO ORGANIZATION OTHER THAN THE SOCIALIST LABOR PARTY AND ITS PARENT ORGANIZATION WAS INVOLVED IN THE OPERATION. EARLIER IN THE INVESTIGATION, THERE WERE LEADS TO THE SOCILIST REVOLUTIONARY ORGANIZATION OF MURSHID

SHIBBU, BUT THIS DID NOT PROVE OUT. NEITHER DID POSSIBLE LEADS TO ANY COMMUNIST ORGANIZATION.

3. PLO/FATAH IS CONTINUING THE INVESTIGATION AND ALSO ATTEMPTING TO OBTAIN THE RETURN OF THE THIRD MURDERER TO THEMSELVES. THE PLO IS MOST ANXIOUS TO ENSURE THAT THEY ARE NOT SUSPECTED IN ANY WAY OF INVOLVEMENT IN THE OPERATION. END QUOTE.

AMBASSADOR'S COMMENT: IN MY OPINION SOURCE WAS INSTRUCTED BY PLO/FATAH TO MAKE THIS INFO AVAILABLE. I NOTE BLAME IS ATTRIBUTED TO ELEMENTS NOT UNDER FULL CONTROL OF PLO AND THAT ABU IYAD PERSONALLY DIRECTED PRISONERS BE TURNED OVER TO PFLP WITHOUT ARAFAT'S AGREEMENT. ABU IYAD COULD EASILY HAVE REQUESTED THEN THAT PRISONERS BE SHOT, SO AS TO WRAP UP THE CASE.

IT IS SIGNIFICANT THAT LENGTHY REPORT DID NOT CONTAIN NAMES OF THREE MEN ALLEGED TO HAVE MURDERED OUR PEOPLE.
PORTER

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